

direction of the water to prevent the fire bursting through the west window, not only was that saved, but the fire was confined to the nave, and by one o'clock all danger of further damage was over—the south-west tower and great aisle of the nave being left mere shells.

On an investigation being instituted as to the cause of this calamity, it came out that it originated in the carelessness of an individual named Groves, from Leeds, who had been engaged for some time cobbling at the clock, and had left a candle burning, a spark of which ignited the building. This worthy, on the recent completion of the tower, and hanging of the new bells, had the effrontery to ask permission to take a part in ringing the opening peal—doubtless, intending thereby to attach another laurel to his wreath, which, we believe, he wears very jauntily—regarding the men of York as in no small degree beholden to him for the superior condition to which (through his stupidity) he has been the cause of bringing the Minster.

Shortly after the disastrous event, a meeting took place in London of those interested in the county of York, and at which a subscription was commenced. On the 7th of August, a public meeting was held in York; meetings also took place there on the 31st of March and 6th of October, 1842, all of them fraught with matter of importance to the fate of the Minster. On the 25th of June, 1840, Sir Robert Smirke had reported on the damage done, and furnished an estimate of the probable cost of its reparation. On the 17th of March, 1842, Mr. Sydney Smirke, his brother, to whom the work of restoration had been intrusted, reported on the works done, and those further necessary, and, on the 29th following, on the general state of the fabric. In the former report, in reference to the work done, Mr. Smirke stated that in the interior of the tower, and there only, the fire had been more destructive than was at first supposed, much of the masonry being found to be deeply injured, and stones which appeared only discoloured, split through their whole depth; this was substantially reinstated. The tower had been permanently expanded, and seriously rent through on all sides by the intense heat,—the old cracks both in it and the west end of the nave being much increased in width: to remedy this injury it was bound together, and firmly united to the other parts composing the west front by four strong iron ties, two of them extending from its south side across the west front to the further side of the north tower, the two others, or cross ties, connecting these on its own north and south sides; the cracked stones were cut out and new sound ones inserted; by these means stability was given to the south-west tower and west wall. The newel stair at the south-west angle having been in two places completely broken through, and thus rendered impassable, was restored, as were also the battlements on top where damaged. The four windows on the clerestory level, as also those of belfry, had received entirely new tracery, and many new jamb-stones. The latter were filled with half-inch Welsh slate louvres in lieu of the former weather-boards; in the former the glazing was in course of completion, and the perforated battlements outside those on the south and west reinstated where injured, while that on the north, looking into the nave, which previous to the fire was bricked up, was now opened—new fire-proof floors occupied the places of the timber ones destroyed, those to clock and ringers' chambers composed of 5-inch York landings on cast-iron bearers, that to bell-chamber consisting of stone arches springing from similar bearers, with a floor of thick oak planking to receive the bell-framing. A new roof, constructed of iron and covered with lead, was also fixed on the tower: in the execution of these works about 670 tons of Huddlesstone stone, and 218 of Gazeby stone, had been worked up, the latter being used where the utmost possible strength was required; the mortar was made of calcined Huddlesstone stone, which affords lime of the best quality; stone dowels and iron or copper internal cramps were used, external cramps being avoided as much as possible; over the nave was constructed a new external roof of Memel oak, clad with 2-inch oak planks, and covered with thick cast lead; the parapet-gutters of lead, laid on a bed of mastic, in lieu of boarding, which is very liable to decay; the surface of the masonry

under the roof, including the wall-ribs, forming part of the vaulting yet to be done, were in progress of restoration. The work further required comprised the reinstatement of timber ribs and vaulting to nave; a portion of roof of south aisle burnt at west end; lower parts of stone piers calcined, and otherwise injured; carved masonry against walls, under windows of south aisle, mutilated at south-west angle by heat and falling of burning timbers; interior carved masonry about principal western entrance similarly injured; doors for said entrance, and for that under south-west tower; many black and white flags forming pavement of nave broken by falling in of roof and vaulting; and stained glass in clerestory of nave damaged.

The report on the general condition of the Minster Mr. Smirke clasped under three different heads, viz.:—The repairs that were urgently required for the safety of the building; those of works fallen into decay, but which were not in immediate danger; and those which, however desirable for the dignity and character of this great national monument, might, nevertheless, be regarded only as ornamental restorations. The first would comprise an entirely new roof over the centre aisle of the north transept, and reinstating in a vertical position, as far as practicable, the masonry of the western triforium there which overhung towards the west, and was the more dangerous from the whole of that side of the transept inclining also to the north; it would include also, the entire reinstatement of tracery to the southernmost window of vestibule to chapter-house, and of three pinnacles to buttresses on the south-west of choir, with the parapets connecting them; the second referred to cracks in main walls of centre tower, to be tied with iron; decayed ends of main girders supporting roof of same, to have cast-iron shoes; the defective lead covering to be recast and laid on new oak boarding, and the gutters laid on a bed of mastic; gutters of south transept defective and to be relaid; exterior masonry of choir (besides the pinnacles and parapet above-mentioned) requiring repair, repointing and cramping in many parts, including the other pinnacles on both sides, and the external screen-work on the north; lead-work of roof to north aisle of nave requiring considerable repair, and gutters relaying on mastic or slate; parapet also and heads of buttresses wanting a thorough repair. Roof of south aisle still more dilapidated, carpentry ill constructed, no tie-beams, braces thrusting injuriously against south wall, above triforium, some of timbers decayed, wants early and entire re-construction; tracery of six out of seven of south clerestory windows much mutilated, should be restored with Huddlesstone stone externally, the Tadcaster having proved very inferior; some considerable fractures in north-west tower, should be repaired in like manner with the central tower; lead and boarding of roof much decayed, the latter should be renewed, of oak, and the former recast and relaid, the gutters to be laid on slate or mastic; louvre-boarding requiring repair, new slate louvres desirable, as adopted in south-west tower; original floors entirely gone, a stone floor with cast-iron girders, introduced near middle, would add much to the future security of the tower; upper part of south-east angle buttress of south-west tower separated from main wall and inclining forward, wanting replacing and cramping; in chapter-house and vestibule, the parapets of former nearly ruinous, wants partial renewing and careful pointing; pinnacles all more or less defective, two ought to be entirely rebuilt; tracery of north window of vestibule falling into equally as bad a state as that of south one. The third class referred to evidences of decay in exterior of east wall of choir—north pier of great east window, with its buttresses and perforated battlements in a state of general decay, requiring restoration with new work, as before done in south portion—spire of north-east pinnacle, now wanting, should be restored—most part of the four pinnacles at south front of south transept in a very bad state of repair; but being of modern workmanship, out of unison with the ancient work, should be replaced by others in appropriate taste. [These pinnacles, and a variety of other ornaments about the Minster, speaking a tale of sixty years since, are the emanations of Alderman Carr's studio, and are quite à la Langley.]

The pinnacles of the three angle buttresses at northern extremity of north transept wholly wanting, and their restoration greatly to be desired. In the interior, the ornamental arcade under windows of nave, especially towards the west, much impaired; being near the eye, the reinstatement of this masonry very desirable.

From the report of the Restoration Committee, read previously to those of Mr. Smirke, it appeared that the state of their accounts and funds was as follows:—

Disbursements	£13,959	6	7
Liabilities	532	10	0
	£14,491	16	7

Receipts:—			
Subscriptions	£13,545	7	8
Sale of stone fragments	35	0	0
Old lead	318	16	0
Bell metal	437	19	4

Subscriptions due	£14,337	3	0
Deficit	91	13	4
	£14,491	16	7

The sum above stated for disbursements includes 347l. 9s. for the great tenor bell; that for liabilities includes 84l. 10s. for the bell-frame, which was ordered of such construction as to be available for the complete peal, without any alteration or removal; also 175l. for clock, and 55l. for fixing same.

The estimate which Mr. Smirke formed of the works above specified is as follows:—

To complete the restoration, about	£9,000	0	0
Remainder of peal	1,200	0	0
General repairs, 1st class	6,200	0	0
Ditto 2nd class	12,500	0	0
Ditto 3rd class	9,500	0	0
	£38,400	0	0

Mr. Smirke reported also, at the same time, on the practicability of making an efficient provision against future accidents by fire, an outline of which is as follows:—Four slate tanks capable of holding, say 1000 gallons each, to be placed in the triforium of the nave—one at each end on each side; four similar tanks, and similarly disposed in the triforium of choir, and two in gallery under windows of great central tower; the tanks in the triforia to be supplied by two-inch iron service-pipes, discharging themselves by ball-cocks, or in case of fire, by engines below; the two in great tower, by two common force-pumps attached to two of the former. To make use of this supply of water, a small portable engine to be kept in each triforium and one in the gallery of tower, each with an adequate length of hose. In addition to this provision, ten screw fire-cocks communicating with the Water Company's main to be disposed in the choir, at the level of the pavement, that part of the Minster being more than any other exposed to danger. The cost, Mr. Smirke estimated at from 700l. to 800l.—for the ten tanks, seven portable engines, four hundred feet of hose, and the requisite iron service-pipes—supposing the water company, at their own cost, to lay down the necessary main as far as the south wall of the Minster.

The remainder of this paper will be given next week.

CONSIDERATION DUE TO LITERARY MEN AND ARTISTS.—A fortnight ago Sir Robert Peel entertained at dinner, in a kind and friendly manner, Dr. Buckland, Professor Owen, Sir Henry de la Beche, Dr. Playfair, Mr. Pickersgill, Mr. Eastlake, Mr. W. Westlake, and other savans and artists. Lady Peel and Lord and Lady Villiers were present. This is as it should be; and it is lamentable to find occurrences of this sort so rare in our country as they are. One might almost imagine that the Premier feels ashamed of the course pursued at the palace, the want of even an appearance of sympathy there with genius and ability, and desires, so far as he is able, to supply the deficiency. His kindness lately to poor Hood, though the pension may be from the public purse,—the friendly letter which he wrote to him, will be remembered when many of his acts as a politician are forgotten. Mr. Pickersgill has just now completed a portrait of Professor Owen for the Premier's gallery, and a very fine work it is, worthy alike of the painter and the subject.